(c) The steps being taken by Government to save the river Ganga are as follows :

(i) Under the River Conservation Plan, the industrial pollution is tackled through the implementation of the legal provisions stipulated under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

(ii) The concerned State Pollution Control Boards have been taking action to restore the water quality of river Ganga under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

(iii) Under the Ganga Action Plan (Phase—I) pollution abatement works have been taken up in 25 towns located along the Ganga. Under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), this has been further extended to 59 towns including the 11 towns of GAP (Phase—I) in the states of Uttranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.

(iv) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has set up Minimal National Standards (MINAS) for different categories of polluting industries which is implemented by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards through regular monitoring system.

Killing of sharks

39. DR. MAM. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large scale killing of sharks is taking place in the country, in utter violation of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government to arrest this situation so that the eco-system is saved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No reports of large scale killing of sharks have been received from the States.

(b) Sharks are listed under Schedule-I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, according the species highest degree of protection against hunting and trade. As per reports from coastal States of India, awareness

campaigns have been launched among the fishermen to enable them to identify sharks as well as release them immediately in cases of incidental nettings.

Collusion of forest staff and poachers in tiger killing

40. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether inquiries and investigations into the loss and disappearance of hundreds of tigers in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, including Ranthambhore, have thrown up and exposed collusion between the forest staff and poachers;

(b) if so, the number and details of the staff/officers found involved; and

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) This Ministry has not received any report from Madhya Pradesh or Rajasthan regarding loss and disappearance of hundreds of tigers or collusion between forest staff and poachers.

(c) Question does not arise

Environmental pollution due to ship breaking industries

41. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that every year around 600 decommissioned/aged ships are being received from abroad by our ship-breaking yards and that this Rs. 200 crore ship-breaking industry is responsible for causing worst type of environmental hazards thereby;

(b) if so, whether docommissioned French Aircraft Carrier Clemenceau was permitted to enter in India recently; and

(c) whether Government are thinking of gradually banning this ship-breaking activities where workers are exposed to life-taking carcinogenic materia! which often prove fatal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The ship breaking